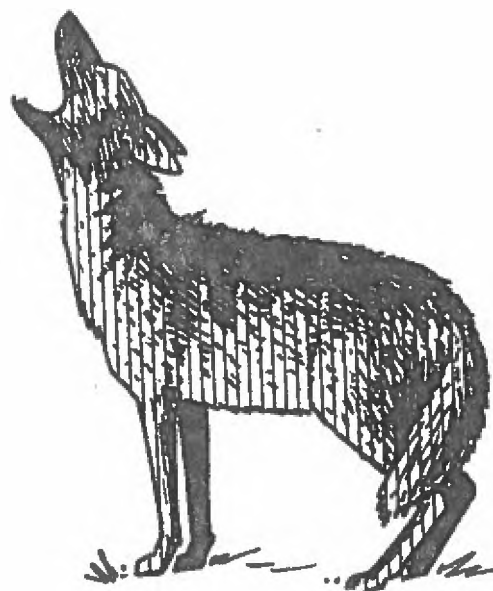


Yellowstone Interpreters Newsletter



National
Parks 
Centennial
1872-1972

NUMBER 7

FEBRUARY 1972

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING

ANOTHER TRANSFER

South District Naturalist Dick Lake transferred to Big Horn Canyon Recreation Area where he will be South District Manager. Dick and Carol left Yellowstone on January 26, 1972 for Lovell, Wyoming where they will live. We are all going to miss Dick next summer, especially with all of the Centennial activities in addition to the regular summer program. As yet, a replacement has not been selected; however, we hope to fill the position in a month or so.

FRIGID JANUARY

Weather in Yellowstone has been unusually severe during January. Here in Mammoth subzero temperatures have been common, with a low of -25 degrees recorded on the 27th. The entrance station at West Yellowstone registered -43 degrees for January 4, and on February 2 the Lamar Ranger Station showed -56 degrees!

As a result of a colder than usual month, snowmobile traffic is down somewhat from January 1971. However, during the first fifteen days the park was open to snowmobiles in December, 1,000 small machines passed through the West Entrance, approximately 40% above the same period a year ago.

OLD FAITHFUL VISITOR CENTER OPERATIONS

On December 10, the new Old Faithful Visitor Center opened to the public. Although the building will not be completed and dedicated until June, construction has progressed to the point where, from the standpoint of the visitor, the building is essentially complete.

Visitor Center hours are officially 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., but in actuality the building is rarely open this briefly. The 30-minute film, "The Four Seasons of Yellowstone," narrated by Lowell Thomas and produced by the Yellowstone Park Company several years ago is shown at any time during visitor center hours in the auditorium. The movie has received favorable comment; however, it will be replaced in late spring by a more appropriate film on geysers, now being produced by the National Park Service.

Total visitors making use of the visitor center in December were 2,139. For the 22 days that the building was open, this averages out on a daily basis to about 97 people; on the maximum day there were 388 visitors!

Mrs. Jacquolynn Rapier, wife of Park Technician John Rapier stationed at Old Faithful, is information receptionist. She works approximately 6 hours per day, 5 days a week. On her days off, Mrs. Donnie Woody, wife of Robert Woody, acts as a VIP (Volunteers-in-Parks) manning the visitor center during the time when Bob is leading a snowshoe walk.

In the room adjacent to the projection room, shelves have been placed for storing extra feature identification signs on an alphabetical and inventoried basis. In addition, all AV equipment used in the West District is now being stored there.

The area over the visitor center information desk is being made ready for a preparation room. It will be "home" for the West District Library and slide files. Each seasonal personnel will have a box for government mail.

Mr. Frank Weed, Office of Design and Construction (NPS) in Denver, spent a week in early January soldering hundreds of connections in the geyser prediction board. He will be back in April or early May to complete his work which will include installing the outdoor Old Faithful prediction board and hooking up the AV in the two satellites of the visitor center.

A decision has been made that winter orientated exhibits are to be designed, constructed and located in the visitor center lobby in time for next winter.

SNOW COURSE DATA

Between December 30 and January 2, data was collected from 11 snow courses in the park. In all instances snow depths ranged from 118% to 221% of

average! For the park as a whole, average water content ran 147% of normal. The years 1953-1967 are used to determine the average.

RADIO SCRIPTS ARE WRITTEN

First drafts on scripts have been prepared for the limited-range radio transmitters. There will be 33 transmitters in use during the main travel season of 1972. Of these, 6 are in the North District, 14 in West, and 13 in South. Fifteen will be DC units. INFO SYSTEMS, INC., of Bozeman received the contract to provide 15 new transmitters.

TOURING THE WHITE, OPEN, SILENT SPACES

For the first time, cross-country ski tours are being offered at Old Faithful on a commercial basis. The company is based in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and is renting facilities at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge from the Yellowstone Park Company. Reception for this novel means of winter recreation has been good. The trips are primarily half day events with 97% neophytes. The route used has been almost exclusively the trail to Morning Glory Pool. Although snowmobiles and the YP snowcoaches were permitted at first to use this same route, motorized use was found not to be compatible with snowshoeing and ski touring and was, therefore, terminated.

SNOWSHOE HIKING IN THE UPPER GEYSER BASIN

One of the new events at Old Faithful this winter is a naturalist led snowshoe trek on Geyser Hill. Conducted much along the lines of the Twilight Geyser Hill walk, the trip covers a mile or so in about 1½ hours, depending upon how cold it is. Although the boardwalks are primarily used, the boardwalk in the vicinity of Beehive and Plume Geysers has been omitted from the tour due to icy conditions. Here groups are led across snow-protected sinter surfaces. Certain safe thermal features are viewed at close range.

For many (90%) this is the first time that they have used snowshoes. After a few quick tips from the naturalist and the first 100 yards, most novices feel like experts! Trips are conducted either in early morning or late afternoon when the low angle of sunlight and the abundant steam creates an unbelievable scene, even to those who have walked the trail many times during the summer months. Tracks of elk, bison, mule deer, snowshoe rabbits, coyotes, and pine martens are always evident. It is not uncommon to pass within yards of ungulates. Visitor acceptance and enthusiasm have been excellent. The walk cannot be compared to any given in summer; it is a totally new experience for all who have taken advantage of this novel means of winter interpretation.

EXPECTED VIP VISITORS AT OLD FAITHFUL

Mrs. David (Julie) Eisenhower, daughter of ^{the} President, will be visiting the Old Faithful area around the middle of February. She will be accompanied

by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Rogers Morton, and National Park Service Director George Hartzog. Due to widespread interest generated by the offering of new winter activities at Old Faithful, the Secretary and Mr. Hartzog are anxious to view them personally.

BICYCLES TO BE PERMITTED ON NEW WALK IN THE OLD FAITHFUL AREA

A decision has been made by the Superintendent which will permit the summertime use of non-motorized bicycles on the 12-foot wide asphalt walkway between the lower store and Morning Glory Pool. In addition, bicycles will be permitted on the former road to Lone Star Geyser. Seasonal employees who will be working in the Old Faithful area are encouraged to bring their bicycles.

MASTER PLAN AND WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

Among the enclosures you'll find a copy of the Yellowstone Master Plan and Wilderness Study. The two documents have been mailed to national conservation organizations, newspapers, state and local groups that have an interest in Yellowstone and all individuals who have expressed an interest in the future development of the park. Public hearings will be held in March at Livingston, Montana, Jackson, Wyoming, and Idaho Falls in order to get public reaction to the plans. Please bring the two plans with you when you return to the park next summer as we want to place them in the various sub-District files for future reference.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A8215

January 17, 1972

Memorandum

To: All Employees
From: Superintendent
Subject: Centennial

You are all aware of the fact that 1972 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Yellowstone National Park. I think that it is timely to reflect on what the Centennial can mean to us as employees of Yellowstone and the National Park Service. Much has already been said about the significance of this anniversary and the fact that Yellowstone was the first National Park to be established. Equally important, however, is the system of parks which has been created throughout the world as a result of the establishment of Yellowstone. Today, there are thirty-five other National Parks and more than 250 other areas in the National Park System of the United States, and National Parks have been established in 90 other countries.

Public Law 91-332 of July 10, 1970 recognized the International Significance of the Yellowstone Birthday when it created the National Parks Centennial Commission and empowered the Commission to execute "a suitable plan for commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the worldwide national parks movement by establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872." President Nixon and Secretary Morton have charged the Centennial Commission to use the Centennial Year to evaluate and make recommendations for the next century of National Parks, in a final report to Congress at the end of 1973.

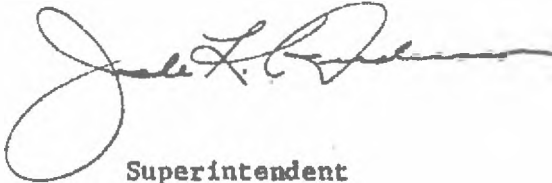
A major contributor to this report will be the results of a National Symposium on Parks and the Future which is being conducted through a contract with the Conservation Foundation. The Director has written to all employees requesting complete cooperation for this Symposium and the December 13th issue of the Newsletter provided specific information on the plans. The Symposium is scheduled for April 13-15 at Yosemite.

The theme of the Centennial is "Parks, Man, and His Environment," to remind us all of the interrelationships between the preservation of the resources in National Parks and their dependence on the wise actions of ~~us~~ as the custodian of our environment.

A Keystone Commemorative Medallion, featuring Yellowstone, will serve as a meaningful symbol of the Centennial. A gold medallion will be struck for presentation to the President and silver and gold replicas will be sold at all parks, by mail and in other retail outlets. Each of the 35 other National Parks will have separate medallions produced by the Roche Jaune Company of Kalispell, Montana. A Centennial Logos has also been developed for more general use.

The following programs for the Centennial Year clearly indicate that 1972 is a most important year to all NPS employees and especially Yellowstone employees. Yellowstone will be a focal point and we must make every effort to have this great park at its very best during the Centennial. While we reflect on past accomplishments, we should also look ahead to contemplate how we may contribute in making the second century of parks more meaningful and responsive to the needs of our society.

The success of the Centennial depends on the interest and effort of all employees. We are all a part of this great and meaningful anniversary and are counting on you for your support.



Superintendent

YELLOWSTONE CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

- | <u>Date</u> | <u>Program Element</u> |
|-------------|--|
| Feb. 27 | ABC TV Program - <u>The American Sportsman</u> , featuring Supt. Anderson and Sports Commentator, Curt Gowdy, will be shown at 3:30 PM MST. On February 24th, <u>Life Magazine</u> will have a six page photographic story on Yellowstone. |
| March 1 | <p>The First Day Issue for Centennial Stamps will be held at the Yellowstone National Park Post Office in Mammoth. The stamps include: a single 8-cent stamp to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Yellowstone Park, the first National Park in the world; a 2-cent issue commemorating Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, the first recreational national park. This issue will consist of four stamps in a block of four, usable as a unit for the first class rate. A 6-cent stamp for Wolf Trap Farm Park in Virginia, near Washington, D. C., the first cultural park, which recently opened. An 11-cent stamp for the City of Refuge, in Hawaii, an historic site. A 15-cent stamp for Mt. McKinley, in Alaska, a natural area. The National Parks series will be compatible in design so as to be easily recognizable as a set, and tell the fact the parks have a multiple purpose -- recreation, nature, history, and culture.</p> <p>"Yellowstone - A Century of a Wilderness Idea," a book by Myron and Anne Sutton to go on sale in the park. The book will be sold and distributed by the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association and the McMillan Publishing Company. The first of a series of Commemorative Medallions to be issued in Yellowstone on this date.</p> <p>Cancellation dies will be placed in Mammoth Post Office on March 1, with an appropriate message on the Centennial.</p> |
| April 11 | A television special on "People of the National Parks" will be shown on NBC at 8:30 PM EST. George C. Scott is to be the narrator. |
| Spring | <p>A gallery of paintings and photographs is now on display in the Administration Building in Mammoth. Paintings and photographs have been furnished by local artists and photographers.</p> <p>Special features (radio, television and newspapers) will be produced by the University of Montana through a special program developed in cooperation with the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association. Students will receive academic credit while providing television, news and radio releases covering park programs.</p> |

May 1 Opening of the park for the Centennial Season.

May A 200 page National Park Service Handbook, designed as a glossary of readily available information relating to all aspects of the National Park System will be printed and distributed by G.P.O.

A combined map of Grand Teton and Yellowstone in full color will be available through G.P.O. in May.

A 12 minute film is being produced at Harpers Ferry Center for use at Old Faithful showing the working of geysers.

Readers Digest will publish five stories on the National Parks during the Centennial Year and National Geographic has scheduled a major feature story on the founding of Yellowstone.

"Exploring Yellowstone" - a book by Ruth Kirk, which is a new interpretive guidebook of the park, co-produced by Washington Press and YLMA will be sold throughout the park.

The culmination of a five million dollar, five year research program will be a book by W. R. Keefer entitled "Geologic Story of Yellowstone National Park."

During the Centennial Year all people entering Yellowstone will receive a packet of special material pertaining to the Centennial.

May 30 The first area celebration of the Centennial Season will be sponsored by the State of Wyoming and will be held in Cody, Wyoming in May. Governor Hathaway has appointed a special commission to plan this event. The Commission has formulated plans for a major banquet on this date with attendance estimated about 1200. Members of the Commission include: Glenn Nielson, Cody, Chairman; Milward Simpson, Cody; Dr. Don McLeod, Jackson; Cal Taggart, Lovell; Jack Rosenthal and Howard Arnett of Casper; Bob Pack of Riverton; Harry Thorson of Newcastle; Robert Parmelee of Cheyenne and Pat Quealy of Kemmerer.

A special banquet and celebration are being planned for Livingston, Montana some time in May. Initial talks have been made with the Livingston Chamber of Commerce and it

is anticipated that the exact date and the specific activities will be announced soon.

Similar events are suggested for Idaho Falls, Idaho and West Yellowstone, Montana in late May. No plans have been made as yet for these programs.

June 10 (Tentative) Formal opening of the Explorers Museum at Madison Junction. The program is to be held in the Amphitheater. The Visitor Center will have all new exhibits portraying the early explorer history of Yellowstone.

June 17-18 Two day program in Gardiner, Montana.
Saturday - June 17 - Arrangements are being made for a special train to run from Billings to Gardiner. There will also be a two hour stage show and dance at the Eagles Lodge in Gardiner.
Sunday, June 18 - Stagecoach rides in the morning from the Gardiner Depot. In the afternoon there will be a parade featuring Yellowstone stagecoaches, buses and cars, special ceremony at the Arch, a barbeque dinner, stagecoach and bus rides and the return of the special train to Billings.

June 24 Dedication of Old Faithful Visitor Center.

Summer Programs

A new system of limited range radios will be in use for transmitting information and interpretive messages to visitors throughout the Park.

There will be a new park ride program of wayside exhibits (a total of 20 displays) installed for 1972.

A new "three senses nature trail" will be opened to the public in the Firehole Loop area. The trail features identification through touch, smell and sound.

Programs for young people on parks, man and his environment will be expanded. (Featuring open discussions with Naturalists in the morning at campgrounds in the park.)

Sept. 5-7 Reunion of Former National Park Service employees who have worked in Yellowstone National Park. Special tours of the park will be arranged for Sept. 5 and 6 - (tentative)

and there will be a general get together dinner on the 7th for all alumni. Details to be arranged.

SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE

September 17

Sunday - Participants for Yellowstone tours and meetings begin to arrive. Participants (total expected up to 500) will pre-register and will have reservations for overnight accommodations at Mammoth, Old Faithful, Canyon Village or Lake Lodge.

September 18

Monday - Both Monday and Tuesday will be spent on special tours of the park.

September 20

Formal opening of the Conference, which will take place in the amphitheater at Madison Junction. The theme for this day is "A Second Century of Parks."